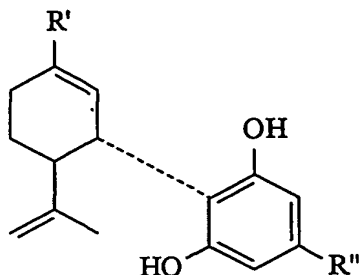


Claim:

1. An optically pure (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula I

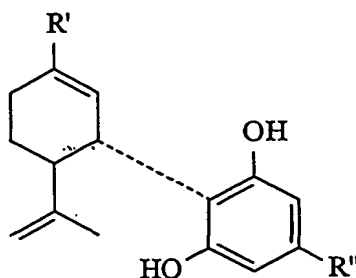
wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH₂OH group, and
- R'' designates (i) a straight or branched C₅-C₁₂ alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C₅-C₉ alkyl group which may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —(CH₂)_n—O—C₁₋₅ alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH₂OH when R'' is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. The (+) enantiomer of claim 1, wherein R' is —COOH and R'' is a pentyl or dimethylheptyl group.
3. A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound of formula I wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 1 and optionally further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive, excipient or diluent.
5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, optionally comprising an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

6. Use of a (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH₃, -COOH or -CH₂OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C₅-C₁₂ alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C₅-C₉ alkyl group which may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH₂)_n-O-C₁₋₅ alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester as a selective modulator of the peripheral cannabinoid system.

7. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia as an analgesic agent.
8. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia as a modulator of the immune system.
9. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia as anti-inflammatory agent.
10. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia as a modulator of the gastrointestinal tract.

11. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia as anti-diarrheal agent.
12. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula (Ia) wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the selective treatment of disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system.
13. The use of claim 11, in the preparation of an analgesic pharmaceutical composition.
14. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5, in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of the immune disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system.
15. The use of claim 13, in the preparation of an anti-inflammatory agent.
16. Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula Ia wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract.
17. The use of claim 15, in the preparation of an anti-diarrheal pharmaceutical composition.
18. A pharmaceutical composition for the selective treatment of disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula Ia.

19. A method of treatment of peripheral conditions, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 17 to a subject in need.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said peripheral conditions are any one of inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhea and inflammatory pain.